

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A computer-implemented system for displaying a graphical indicator instead of data in fields, comprising:

a user interface, operative to generate condition structures in response to receiving graphical indicator conditions, the condition structures defining a relationship between the data, the graphical indicator conditions, and the corresponding graphical indicator;

a graphical indicator engine, responsive to the graphical indicator conditions in the condition structures for each field, for comparing the data to the graphical indicator conditions, the graphical indicator engine operative to output a display signal in response to the graphical condition matching the data; and

a display, operative to fill a cache with the display signal to provide an indication of whether to display the graphical indicator and, for each field, display one of the data and the graphical indicator based on the display signal.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the display comprises a memory storage for storing information that determines whether each field is capable of supporting display of the graphical indicator.

22. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the graphical indicator engine comprises a memory storage for storing the condition structures and graphical indicator IDs that are associated with the condition structures and that determine the graphical indicator to be displayed.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the user interface is operative to validate the graphical indicator conditions.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the user interface is operative to validate test data by determining if the test data equals a pre-defined operation, validate value data by determining if the value data is a legitimate field name or legitimate data, and validate image data by determining if the image data is equal to pre-defined image data.

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein user interface is operative to determine if the value data is a field name or data, if the value data is a field name, determine if the field type is legitimate, and if the value data is data, determine if the data is legitimate.

26. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

obtaining a display signal and graphical indicator conditions that determine when to display graphical indicators;

validating the graphical indicator conditions, comprising the steps of

validating test data by determining if the test data equals a pre-defined operation,

validating value data by determining if the value data is a legitimate field name or legitimate data, and

validating image data by determining if the image data is equal to pre-defined image data;

converting the graphical indicator conditions into condition structures that define a relationship between the data, the graphical indicator conditions, and the corresponding graphical indicators;

comparing the data to the graphical indicator conditions retrieved from the condition structures to determine if there is a match; and
displaying one of the graphical indicator and the data depending on the outcome of the data compared to the graphical indicator conditions.

27. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~26~~²⁷, wherein the step of obtaining a display signal and graphical indicator conditions further comprises the steps of:

requesting an option to set the graphical indicator conditions;
displaying graphical indicator condition options from which the user can choose;
determining if the condition structures exist by checking a memory storage;
converting the existing condition structures back into graphical indicator condition text;
displaying the graphical indicator condition text so that the user can understand the existing graphical indicator conditions; and
modifying the graphical indicator conditions by allowing the user to change or add to the existing graphical indicator condition text.

28. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of comparing the data to the graphical indicator conditions further comprises the step of comparing the data in a prioritized order.

29. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of displaying includes the steps of:

determining if there are fields to test whether to display the graphical indicators;
filling a cache with the display signal that indicates whether to display a graphical indicator; and
for each field, displaying one of text data and the graphical indicator based on the display signal in the cache.

30. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein said step of filling a cache with the display signal comprises the steps of:

determining if the cache exists;

creating the cache if the cache does not exist; and

filling the cache with the display signal indicating whether or not graphical indicators should be displayed in the field.

31. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein said step of displaying comprises the steps of:

determining if one of the fields is a task field or resource field by obtaining a field type;

obtaining the task type of the task field or the resource type of the resource field;

determining the graphical indicator conditions for the task type or resource type;

storing the graphical indicator conditions;

allowing the user to add more graphical indicator conditions;

comparing the data values to the graphical indicator conditions to find a matching graphical indicator ID;

retrieving the matching graphical indicator ID; and

displaying the graphical indicator associated with the matching graphical indicator ID.

32. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein said task type comprises a project summary task type, a summary task type, and a nonsummary task type and said resource type comprises a summary resource type and a nonsummary resource type.

33. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the step of determining the graphical indicator conditions for the task type comprises obtaining task conditions for the project summary task type, the summary task type, and

the nonsummary task type and the step of determining the graphical indicator conditions for the resource type comprises obtaining resource conditions for the summary resource type and the nonsummary resource type.

34. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of validating the value data comprises the steps of:

determining if the value data is a field name or data;

if the value data is a field name, determining if the field type is legitimate; and

if the value data is data, determining if the data is legitimate.

35. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the step of validating the graphical indicator conditions further comprises the step of displaying an error message when an error is found in the graphical indicator conditions.

36. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, further comprising the step of storing the condition structures and the graphical indicator IDs that are associated with the condition structures and that determine the graphical indicators to be displayed.

37. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 26, further comprising the step of displaying the data when hovering a cursor over at least one of the graphical indicators.

38. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

obtaining a display signal and graphical indicator conditions that determine when to display graphical indicators;

converting the graphical indicator conditions into condition structures that define a relationship between the data, the graphical indicator conditions, and the corresponding graphical indicators;
comparing the data to the graphical indicator conditions retrieved from the condition structures to determine if there is a match; and
displaying the graphical indicator or the data depending on the outcome of the data compared to the graphical indicator conditions, comprising the steps of determining if there are more fields to test whether to display the graphical indicators,
filling a cache with the display signal that indicates whether to display the graphical indicator, and
for each field, displaying text data or the graphical indicator based on the display signal in the cache.

39. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the step of obtaining graphical indicator conditions further comprises the steps of:
requesting an option to set the graphical indicator conditions;
displaying graphical indicator condition options from which the user can choose;
determining if the condition structures exist by checking a memory storage;
converting the existing condition structures back into graphical indicator condition text;
displaying the graphical indicator condition text so that the user can understand the existing graphical indicator conditions; and
modifying the graphical indicator conditions by allowing the user to change or add to the existing graphical indicator condition text.

40. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the step of comparing the data to the graphical indicator conditions further comprises the step of:

comparing the data in a prioritized order.

41. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein said step of filling the cache with the display signal comprises the steps of:

determining if the cache exists;

creating the cache if the cache does not exist; and

filling the cache with the display signal indicating whether or not graphical indicators should be displayed in the field.

42. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein said step of displaying text data or the graphical indicator comprises the steps of:

determining if the field is a task field or resource field by obtaining a field type;

obtaining the task type of the task field or the resource type of the resource field;

determining the graphical indicator conditions for the task type or resource type;

storing the graphical indicator conditions;

allowing the user to add more graphical indicator conditions;

comparing the data values to the graphical indicator conditions to find a matching graphical indicator ID;

retrieving the matching graphical indicator ID; and

displaying the graphical indicator associated with the matching graphical indicator ID.

43. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 42, wherein said task type comprises a project summary task type, a summary task type, and a nonsummary task type and said resource type comprises a summary resource type and a nonsummary resource type.

44. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the step of determining the graphical indicator conditions for the task type comprises obtaining task conditions for the project summary task type, the summary task type, and the nonsummary task type and the step of determining the graphical indicator conditions for the resource type comprises obtaining resource conditions for the summary resource type and the nonsummary resource type.

45. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, further comprising the step of:

validating the graphical indicator conditions.

46. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the step of validating the graphical indicator conditions includes the steps of:

validating test data by determining if the test data equals a pre-defined operation;

validating value data by determining if the value data is a legitimate field name or legitimate data; and

validating image data by determining if the image data is equal to pre-defined image data.

47. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 46, wherein the step of validating the value data comprises the steps of:

determining if the value data is a field name or data;

if the value data is a field name, determining if the field type is legitimate; and

if the value data is data, determining if the data is legitimate.

48. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 45, wherein the step of validating the graphical indicator conditions further comprises the step of:

displaying an error message when an error is found in the graphical indicator conditions.

49. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, further comprising the step of:

storing the condition structures and the graphical indicator IDs that are associated with the condition structures and that determine the graphical indicators to be displayed.

50. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 38, further comprising the step of:

displaying the data when hovering over the graphical indicators.

51. (New) A method in a computer system for presenting project information of a project, the method comprising:

receiving from a user an indication of a condition and a graphical indicator; and when generating a presentation of the project information,

determining whether a data value of the project information satisfies the condition; and

when it is determined that the data value satisfies the condition, outputting the graphical indicator instead of the data value to facilitate a viewer in recognizing the condition within the project.

52. (New) The method of claim 51 including receiving from the user indications of multiple condition and graphical indicator pairs and performing the determining and outputting for each of the received pairs.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the determining and outputting are performed in a prioritized order.

54. (New) The method of claim 51 including when it is determined that the data value does not satisfy the received condition, outputting the data value.

55. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the graphical indicator is pre-defined.
56. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the data value corresponds to an attribute of the project.
57. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the indication of the condition and the graphical indicator are received via a user interface that provides pre-defined tests for use in a condition.
58. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein the indication of the condition and the graphical indicator are received via a user interface through which the user can specify whether the condition applies to summary or nonsummary data.
59. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein the summary data includes a project summary data.
60. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein when a condition applies to nonsummary data, receiving an indication as to whether the summary data inherits the condition.
61. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein when a user selects the output graphical indicator, outputting the data value.